

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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TO USIA WASHDC

SECSTATE WASHDC 9801

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

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SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION

1. NOMINATION OF NELSON ROCKEFELLER AS VICE PRESIDENT
WIDELY FONTPAGED WITH PHOTOS. HEADLINES AND EDITORIAL COMMENT
PREDICTABLE FROM SPECTRUM OF BEIRUT PRESS. LEADING INDEPENDENT
AN-NAHAR: "NEW OFFICIAL IS FRIEND OF KISSINGER". INDEPENDENT AL-
BAYRAQ: "BECAUSE HE IS A GOOD PARTNER, FORD NOMINATES
ROCKEFELLER VICE PRESIDENT." TWO PRO-FEDAYEEN PAPERS, AL-HUHARRER
AND AL-LIWA DESCRIBE ROCKEFELLER AS ZIONIST. AL MUHARRER: "ANOTHER
ZIONIST IN WHITE HOUSE--ROCKEFELLER APPOINTED VICE
PRESIDENT." AL LIWA: "FORD APPOINTS ZIONIST ROCKEFELLER
VICE PRESIDENT". AL LIWA ALSO QUOTES ISRAEL RADIO AS
SAYING THAT ROCKEFELLER NOMINATION HAS BEEN RECEIVED WITH
"GREAT SATISFACTION" IN ISRAEL. NOMINATION SUBJECT OF
TWO EDITORIAL COMMENTS, BOTH FAVORABLE.

2. EDITORIALY, AN NAHAR WRITES: "NOT ONLY DID FORD DEFEND
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ROCKEFELLER AGAINST CHARGES LEVELLED AT HIM, HE EVEN CHOSE

HIM AS VICE PRESIDENT. THIS PROVES THAT FORD WILL NOT BE INTIMIDATED AND DOES NOT FEAR STRONG LIBERAL VICE PRES WITH NAME MORE FAMOUS THAN HIS OWN. FORD RIGHTLY OVERLOOKED PETTY POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES. INSTEAD, HE MADE HIS DECISION WITH THE BEST INTERESTS OF U S IN MIND. UNDOUBTEDLY, SELECTION OF ROCKEFELLER IS WISEST AND BEST ACTION FORD HAS TAKEN SINCE CONFIRMING CONTINUITY OF U S FOREIGN POLICY IN MIDEAST. THOSE ARABS SCEPTICAL OF FORD CAN NOW REST ASSURED. NO MATTER WHAT IS SAID ABOUT NEW VICE PRESIDENT'S FORMER ZIONIST FEELINGS BEFORE AND DURING HIS TENURE AS GOVERNOR OF NEW YORK, HE REMAINS REPRESENTATIVE OF LIBERAL WING OF REPUBLICAN PARTY THAT IS CLOSEST TO ARABS. HE ALSO REMAINS REPRESENTATIVE OF MONEY AND OIL, ARAB WEAPON WHICH IS WELL APPRECIATED BY ROCKEFELLER, HIS FAMILY, AND LARGER AMERICAN FAMILY."

3. ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILY STAR: "FORD'S FIRST MAJOR POLICY DECISION HAS BEEN RIGHT ONE. ROCKEFELLER IS AS QUALIFIED FOR VICE PRES AS ANYBODY IN U S. HIS PUBLIC RECORD IS IMPECCABLE AND, IF PRESIDENCY HAS ELUDED HIM SO FAR, IT IS SIMPLY BECAUSE A LIBERAL REPUBLICAN STANDS AS LITTLE CHANCE OF WINNING HIS PARTY NOMINATION AS A CONSERVATIVE DEMOCRAT.... AS FAR AS ARABS ARE CONCERNED, CHOICE OF ROCKEFELLER MUST BE SEEN AS FORTUNATE. HE HEADED LIST OF VICE PRES HOPEFULS IN HIS KNOWLEDGE OF MIDEAST AND ON HIS RECORD OF SUPPORT FOR PURSUANCE OF AN EVENHANDED POLICY VIS-A-VIS ARABS AND ISRAEL. IT IS RECALLED THAT WHEN OIL LOBBY CAMPAIGNED FOR EVENHANDEDNESS IN MIDEAST POLICY IN EARLY SEVENTIES, ZIONIST ORGANIZATIONS ADVERTISED LOSS OF 'THEIR FRIEND AT CHASSE MANHATTAN'. IT IS NOT QUESTION OF ROCKEFELLER'S SUPPORTING ARABS AGAINST ISRAELIS. HE SIMPLY REALIZED THAT AMERICAN INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED IF WASHINGTON IS FAIRER IN ITS DEALINGS WITH ARABS AND ISRAELIS.".

GODLEY

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